

Law Clerk Standard (Effective November 1, 1994)

Qualifications

To qualify for the position of Law Clerk on the personnel staff of a Federal Judge, a candidate must:

- ▶ Be a law school graduate, or
- ▶ Be certified as having completed all law school studies and requirements and merely awaiting conferment of degree.

A Law Clerk may be classified within five different levels based on the amount and type of experience they have. The lowest level is a JSP 09-01 (\$39,474) and the highest level is a JSP 14-10 (\$104,571). Qualifications and salary is determined by the following guidelines:

| Level | Years of Legal Work Experience | Bar Membership Required |
|--------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| JSP 09 | 00 | No |
| JSP 11 | 01 | No |
| JSP 12 | 02 | Yes |
| JSP 13 | 03 ¹ | Yes |
| JSP 14 | 04 ² | Yes |

Legal Work Experience

Legal work experience is progressively responsible experience in the practice of law, in legal research, legal administration, or equivalent experience received after graduation from law school. Major or substantial legal activities while in military service may be credited, on a month-for-month basis whether before or after graduation, but not to exceed one year if before graduation.

¹ One year of federal law clerk experience is required to be promoted or appointed to a JSP 13 level.

² Two years of federal law clerk experience is required to be promoted or appointed to a JSP 14 level.

Educational Substitutions

Graduation and standing within the upper third of the class from a law school on the approved list of the American Bar Association or that of the Association of American Law Schools; graduation from an approved law school with a LLM degree; experience on the editorial board of a law review of such a school; or proficiency in legal studies which, in the opinion of the appointing judge, is the equivalent of the above, is considered qualifying for one year of legal experience.

Examples of criteria which are considered as equivalent to one year of legal experience:

- ▶ Publication of a noteworthy article in a law school student publication or other scholarly publication.
- ▶ Special high-level honors for academic excellence in law school, such as election to the Order of the Coif.
- ▶ Winning of a moot court competition or membership on a moot court team that represents the law school in competition with other law schools.
- ▶ Participation in the legal aid or other law school clinical program sanctioned by the law school. (participation and experience could not have been for academic credit)
- ▶ Summer experience as a law clerk to a state or local judge or law clerk experience on a continuous basis (either full or part-time) in a private firm while attending school.

Credit for Bar Examination Preparation Course

Work experience may be credited for BarBri. The amount of time credited is either the actual length of the preparatory course or a maximum of six weeks, whichever is less. This credit presumes full-time study for the preparatory course. Part-time study while engaged in full-time employment will not be counted.